

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 16082 301832Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 PER-01  
ABF-01 SSO-00 /034 W  
-----024213 301833Z /43  
O 301805Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5406

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AODE, IT  
SUBJ: MODE-PERSONNEL LEVELS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY/CUSTOMS

REF: STATE 216181

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DEPT. OF THE TREASURY/  
CUSTOMS SUGGESTION TO REDUCE THEIR US CITIZEN ROME STAFF  
TO THREE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, BUT WE HAVE TWO COMMENTS.
2. FIRST WE QUESTION WHETHER THESE THREE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES  
CAN MAINTAIN THEIR EFFICIENCY WITHOUT AN AMERICAN SECRETARY.  
WE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE FACED WITH A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL  
SECRETARIAL STAFF, EITHER AMERICAN OR LOCAL, SUBSEQUENT  
TO OUR AGREEING TO THE PRESENT OFFER.
3. SECOND, THE EMBASSY IS NOT YET CONVINCED OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR A CUSTOMS OFFICE IN ROME.
4. CONCERNING THE WORKLOAD IMPOSED BY THE ANTI-DUMPING  
ACT, THE DEPT OF TREASURY SHOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE  
DATA ON HOW MANY ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE WHICH  
REQUIRE CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN ROME TO CONDUCT THE  
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NECESSARY INQUIRIES. WE UNDERLINE "REQUIRE" SINCE  
THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE IS APPARENTLY ABLE TO DECIDE  
WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL TAKE A CASE. THE EMBASSY  
APPRECIATES THAT INQUIRIES CAN ONLY BE MADE ON SITE,  
BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE  
DOING DURING THE "EXTREMELY PROLONGED PERIODS OF  
TIME BEFORE CONSUMMATION." THE EMBASSY FURTHER

APPRECIATES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE HIGHLY TRAINED SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT SUCH INQUIRIES; BUT GIVEN THE COST TO MAINTAIN AN AMERICAN ABROAD (THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE DEPARTMENT CALCULATES APPROXIMATELY \$35 - 40,000 PER YEAR), IT SEEMS TO THE EMBASSY THAT THIS SUM WOULD PAY FOR A NUMBER OF TDY VISITS AND THAT THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MIGHT BETTER SPEND THEIR TIME WHILE AWAITING "CONSUMMATION" IN THEIR WASHINGTON OFFICES.

5. FURTHER, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS NECESSARY FOR A CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN ROME TO ANALYZE THE RESPONSES OBTAINED UNDER THE FAST TRACK DUMPING INVESTIGATION INTO MATTERS RELATING TO STEEL PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN ITALY. THE ANALYSIS, IT SEEMS TO US, COULD BE DONE IN WASHINGTON. THE EMBASSY COULD PRESENT THE LETTERS AND QUESTIONNAIRES AND SEE THAT THE RESPONSES ARE FORWARDED AS APPROPRIATE.

6. MR. CHASEN'S MEMORANDUM NOTES THAT THE CUSTOMS OF OFFICE IN ROME CONDUCTS "INQUIRIES AND GATHERS INTELLIGENCE INTO ALLEGED SMUGGLING, FRAUD AND NEUTRALITY VIOLATIONS AND INQUIRES INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE FOREIGN BANK SECRECY ACT (SECRECY VIOLATIONS)." HE PROVIDES NO DATA ON THE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES OR AMOUNT OF INTELLIGENCE OBTAINED UPON WHICH TO BASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS STATEMENT THAT THESE REQUIRE "A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT." CAN THESE INQUIRIES BE MADE ELSEWHERE OR CAN THE INTELLIGENCE BE OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES?

7. IN SUM, AS RECENT FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION CONCLUDED, "AS VIRTUALLY ALL CASES INVESTIGATED NOW REQUIRE TDY TRAVEL WITHIN ITALY OR TO THIRD COUNTRIES, THE CUSTOMS FUNCTION COULD AS WELL BE PERFORMED BY PERSONNEL BASED ELSEWHERE ABROAD OR IN THE US." HOWEVER, IF IT IS DECIDED IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE MUST BE A CUSTOMS PRESENCE IN ROME, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IT BE LIMITED TO TWO REPEAT TWO PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES PLUS EITHER AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OR AN ITALIAN SECRETARY. HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MODE-PERSONNEL LEVELS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY/CUSTOMS  
**TAGS:** AODE, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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